

Atlantic Richfield Company

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February 6, 2009

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Nadia Hollan Burke
Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street, SFD-8-2
San Francisco, CA 94105

**Subject: January 2009 Monthly Report, Yerington Mine Site, Lyon County, Nevada:
Administrative Order for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, EPA Docket
No. 9-2007-0005**

Dear Ms. Hollan Burke:

Pursuant to the above referenced order issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 9 (EPA), please note the following monthly status report for Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC) activities at the Yerington Mine Site (Site) during January 2009.

January 2009 Activities

Operations, Maintenance and Site Security

- Continued routine site O&M, security and bird deterrent activities. Water line to lab building repaired January 9.
- Pumpback well system (PWS) averaged approximately 45.5 gpm. All 11 wells operated 24/7 with minor downtime for preventive maintenance (PW-4, PW-5, PW-6, and PW-7). PWS evaporation pond levels: north cell = 1.45 feet; middle cell = 1.44 feet; south cell = 1.32 feet.
- Arimetco heap leach fluid management system (FMS): 1) Total estimated gallons transferred from VLTSP Pond to Evaporation Pond = 48,000 gallons; SSP to Evaporation Pond = 24,000 gallons; Phase 1 Pond to Evaporation Pond = 0 gallons; 2) Pond levels: Phase 1 Pond = <1.0 foot; Evaporation Pond = 5.25 feet; VLT Pond = 8 feet; Slot 2 Pond = 14 feet.

Other Site Activities

- Continued the bottled water program (146 recipients as of January 31).
- Quatterra rock core loggers on site all month.
- T. Dunkelman (EPA) FMS inspections January 8, 22 and 26.
- January 22 tours: ARC (R. Thun and J. Batchelder); CH2MHill (I. Dinkelman, K. Green) with E2 Inc. (M. Mzupin and Matt Robbie) and McGinnis & Associates (D. Jamison); EPA (D. Seter, S. Acree); and NDEP (A. Gravenstein, J. Sawyer)
- Attended the Yerington Public Meeting January 22.
- J. Harter and J. Harvey (USFWS) site inspection January 26.

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January 2009 Activities - Continued

Site Characterization

- Site-wide monthly groundwater elevation measurements were obtained on January 29 and 30.
- A pit lake elevation of 4,216.67 feet above mean sea level (amsl) was recorded on January 13, which represents an increase of 0.24 feet since December 17, 2008 (4,216.43 feet amsl).
- Continued meteorological monitoring at the AM-6 location. Performed the semi-annual maintenance and calibration of the met station.
- Continued data compilation for the submittal of the 2008 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report including monthly potentiometric surface maps and a saturated thickness contour map.
- Initiated the revised statistical analysis of the background soils data using corrected analytical data for soil moisture content.
- Submitted the updated Conceptual Site Model (CSM; Revision 3) document and associated responses to EPA comments on the CSM (Revision 2) on January 30.
- Initiated revisions, and associated responses to EPA comments, to the *Air Quality Monitoring Program Data Summary Report* (AQM DSR) dated May 29, 2008 and the *Draft Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment Work Plan for the Inhalation Pathway* (HHRA Work Plan) dated June 19, 2008
- Continued the compilation and interpretation of field information and laboratory analytical data associated with the Anaconda Evaporation Ponds Removal Action Characterization Work Plan. Initiated vadose zone modeling for the evaporation ponds.
- Surveyed and estimated the areas of standing water on the inactive Anaconda lined evaporation pond (LEP) resulting from the January 22-23 precipitation event (survey conducted on February 2). About 0.34 inches of rain fell over the 48-hour period resulting in approximately 15 acres of standing water. The measured pH of the water two weeks after the rain event was 0.5.
- Initiated preliminary engineering activities associated with the short term removal action associated with the Anaconda evaporation ponds.
- Continued discussions with EPA regarding the following two groundwater investigation work plans submitted to EPA on December 31, 2008: 1) Shallow Alluvial Aquifer Characterization Work Plan; and 2) Pumpback Well System (PWS) Characterization Work Plan. Prepared and distributed access agreements for proposed monitor well/geoprobe locations on private property. Initiated the development of a Community Outreach Program for the groundwater investigations.
- Continued the evaluation of hydrologic tracer information and chemical data associated with the Site-Wide Groundwater Operable Unit (OU).
- Continued Site wildlife surveys.

Planned February/March 2009 Activities

- Implement the transition of Norwest Site O&M duties to Brown and Caldwell.
- Continue routine O&M and site security activities, including bird deterrent activities.
- Continue meteorological monitoring at AM-6.
- Continue groundwater elevation and pit lake level monitoring.
- Submit metadata information to EPA in March.
- Submit the Annual 2008 Groundwater Monitoring Report to EPA in mid-to-late February.
- Submit the revised AQM DSR and HHRA Work Plan to EPA in early March.
- Submit the revised background soils Data Summary Report to EPA in mid March.
- Upon receipt of EPA review comments, submit the updated version of the QAPP (Revision 4).

Planned February/March 2009 Activities - Continued

- Submit the Data Summary Report associated with the Anaconda Evaporation Ponds Removal Action Characterization Work Plan in late March.
- Pending EPA approval, initiate work on the two groundwater investigations for shallow zone characterization and PWS effectiveness.
- Continue Site wildlife surveys.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (661) 287-3855 or via e-mail at Roy.Thun@bp.com.

Sincerely,



Roy Thun
Environmental Business Manager

cc: Dave Seter, EPA – via electronic mail
Mike Montgomery, EPA – via electronic mail
Sheryl Bilbrey, EPA – via electronic mail
Andrew Helmlinger, EPA – via electronic mail
Tom Dunkelman, EPA – via electronic mail
Joe Sawyer, NDEP – via electronic mail
Tom Olsen, BLM – via electronic mail
Dan Newell, City of Yerington – via electronic mail
Phyllis Hunewill, Lyon County Commissioner – via electronic mail
Dennis Stark, Lyon County Manager – via electronic mail
Chris Winsor, Atlantic Richfield Company - via electronic mail
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